

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

Clarke Press Release

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SEN. CLARKE EXPRESSES OUTRAGE AT HOUSE VOTE TO CUT 45,000 CITIZENS OFF MEDICAID Dubs House Action Illegal and Wrongheaded

LANSING- State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) expressed outrage today at the GOP-controlled Michigan House of Representatives for voting Wednesday to cut 45,000 citizens off Medicaid starting in fiscal year 2005. The Senate Appropriations Committee member dubbed the House action “illegal” since the Michigan constitution prohibits the adoption of a supplemental budget in advance of the normal budgeting process.

“The House action yesterday is both illegal and wrongheaded,” said Sen. Clarke. “You can’t cut a budget that hasn’t even been enacted yet by the Legislature. These people are just making up the rules as they go along,”

The Republican-controlled House voted Wednesday to cut from the FY 05 budget over \$56,000,000 for health plan services and medical related expenses. The action would cut 34,000 parents and caretaker relatives off Medicaid and eliminate coverage for another 11,000 persons under the age of 21 but older than 18.

“It’s troubling to see House Republicans so cavalier about causing over 40,000 citizens to lose their health insurance,” said Sen. Clarke. “This will also hurt single, low-income parents who will not be able to pay for valuable day care services”

EDITOR’S NOTE: An audio file of Sen. Clarke commenting on Wednesday’s House action by going to: <http://www.senate.mi.gov/Audio%20Clips/01-052004.wav>